

## APPLICANT FEEDBACK SUMMARY

### 2013 AmeriCorps State and National Grant Competition

**Legal Applicant:** Habitat for Humanity of Michigan

**Application ID:** 13AC146428

**Program Name:** Michigan Habitat's AmeriCorps Program

For the purpose of enhancing our programs by improving the quality and quantity of applications to the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), we are providing specific feedback regarding the strengths and weaknesses of this application. These comments are not meant to represent a comprehensive assessment; rather the analysis represents those elements that had the greatest bearing on the rating of the application. Please note that this feedback consists of summary comments from more than one reviewer. For this reason, some of the comments may seem to be inconsistent or contradictory. Comments are not representative of all of the information used in the final funding decision.

#### Reviewers' Summary Comments:

(+) The application presents a compelling mixture of statewide housing issues, particularly in Michigan's distressed cities, including substandard housing and that there is a stock of foreclosed properties beyond the financial ability of low-income families.

(+) The application presents persuasive information into the need for low-income housing solutions, namely that 30% of Michigan households (or 378,566 low-income families) are living in substandard housing and that although there exists housing stock due to foreclosures, Fair Market Rent housing is out of reach for a large number of low-income families.

(+) The application presents a compelling list of accomplishments (service hours, percent of Habitat for Humanity homes built, and Neighborhood Revitalization programs).

(+) The application presents persuasive information into the monetary impact of the AmeriCorps supported programs.

(+) The applicant indicates that participating sites operate with small staff and/or dedicated volunteer support. AmeriCorps members will allow them to expand their reach by offering services and opportunities that the regular staff does not have the capacity to support. For example, the applicant states AmeriCorps members would allow them to provide financial literacy for all applicant families instead of just to the selected partner families.

(+) The applicant clearly describes AmeriCorps member activities, roles and responsibilities and provides specific examples. For example, the applicant states the construction position will support all activities related to the building, rehabilitation, repair, weatherization, and deconstruction of houses. The applicant states the family support position will assist families with initiating the qualifications process, completing the homeowner application, and helping existing Habitat for Humanity homeowners remain financially stable. The applicant states the neighborhood development position will support the Habitat for Humanity repair and preservation activities

- (+) The applicant clearly describes the number of AmeriCorps members requested and what slot types are needed. The applicant states they are requesting 15 full-time Members and 10 half-time Members to serve in the following capacities: construction, family support, neighborhood development, and community outreach. The applicant states the full-time Members will support medium and large Habitat for Humanity affiliates and the half-time positions will support families and volunteers at small affiliates that work on three or fewer homes and mentor less than six families a year.
- (-) The application discusses responsibilities such as asbestos and lead abatement which require professional handling and therefore suggest displacing licensed professionals.
- (-) The applicant identifies the 10 cities it will serve as part of the 165 “distressed” cities according to the state of Michigan, but provides no source. Information about two cities, Flint and Detroit, is added, but no additional information is provided for any of the other cities.
- (-) The applicant explains that it will and does provide housing services to veterans in five of the ten cities, but provides no evidence that there are veterans who need these services.
- (-) The applicant explains that AmeriCorps members will work with those at risk of foreclosure, but this does not appear to be relevant to the proposed outcomes which are to transition the targeted population into housing or to provide housing placement services.
- (-) The applicant expects community impact based on neighborhood revitalization, but is unclear what this will consist of.
- (-) The application does not present documentation as to the extent of the need in the targeted 10 cities.
- (-) The application does not address whether its programs are aimed toward any economically disadvantaged population.